

WASHINGTON - Congressman John Adler, who represents Joint Base McGuire-Dix-Lakehurst, issued the following statement regarding President Obama's speech on Afghanistan this evening. President Obama laid out a plan to add an additional 30,000 troops to Operation Enduring Freedom. He also laid out clear benchmarks for the Afghanistan government. Last month, Congressman Adler visited local service members and military and diplomatic leaders in Afghanistan.

"While visiting Afghanistan last month, I saw the bravery and patriotic sacrifice of our troops and their families. After seeing the recent success on the ground, I agree that we need additional forces in Afghanistan to fight the Taliban and the terrorists that threaten America."

"I have deep concerns about President Karzai's leadership. The Afghani government must meet the proposed benchmarks of ridding their country of corruption and taking control of their security.

"More troops will make Afghanistan and Pakistan more secure. We cannot allow the Taliban to obtain nuclear weapons from a destabilized Pakistan. Once we have accomplished our mission of keeping America safe, then our troops must come home."